

Message Text

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INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5042

JCS WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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STATE FOR EUR/RPM-E. REHFELD AND EUR/EX-J. TULL

BRUSSELS FOR JAS/ACOUNS

BRUSSELS ALSO PASS TO CO, NSA, BRUSSELS

DEF FOR OSD/ISA-H. DUNLAP; OSD/MRIL-CMDR FERNALD;

OSD/COMPT (A)-D. COOKE; OSD MIL PERS - COL. R. VALENTINE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: NATO, AORG, APER

SUBJECT: STATE CONTINUANCE OF NON-REPRESENTATIONAL
QUARTERS SUPPORT FOR DOD PERSONNEL IN BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

REFS: A. DOD/STATE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT 29 JUNE 1967,

B. DOD/STATE INTERSERVICE SUPPORT AGREEMENT 1 JUN 1967,

C. DOD ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTION 76 (REVISED) 6 APRIL

1970, D. JOINT STATE/DEFENSE/EMBASSY BRUSSELS MEMORANDUM
23 JUNE 1970.

SUMMARY: JOINT ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES (JAS), THE
EXECUTIVE AGENT OF THE DEPT OF ZP IN BELGIUM
PROVIDING DOD NON-REP HOUSING SUPPORT, HAS ADVISED
USNATO AND USDELMC THAT CONTINUATION OF DEPARTMENT
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QUARTERS SUPPORT FOR DOD PERSONNEL IN BRUSSELS WILL BE
SUBJECT TO THE PROVISION OF ADEQUATE LN (FSL)
POSITIONS AND DOD FUNDING OF THEM, AND EFFECTIVE MEANS
TO ASSURE JAS THAT PERSONNEL PAY LEGITIMATE DEBTS ARISING
FROM OCCUPANCY OF US GOVT LEASED QUARTERS. UNLESS THESE
CONDITIONS ARE MET, STATE DEPARTMENT SUPPORT
FOR HOUSING OF DOD PERSONNEL IN BRUSSELS WILL HAVE TO BE

PHASED OUT COMMENCING SEPTEMBER 30, 1977. END SUMMARY.

1. BACKGROUND: THE STATE/DEFENSE AGREEMENT THAT THE FORMER WOULD UNDERTAKE RESPONSIBILITY TO HOUSE DOD PERSONNEL IN BRUSSELS UPON MOVE OF HQ NATO FROM PARIS IN 1967 IS CONTAINED IN REFS A AND B. THE INITIAL RELOCATION AGREEMENT WAS MODIFIED AND EXTENDED BY REFS C AND D N 1970. DURING SUMMER OF 1976, JAS PROPOSED CANCELLATION OF THE JOINT AGREEMENT BASED ON SHORTAGE OF LOCAL NATIONAL HOUSING PERSONNEL AND INCREASED MAINTENANCE/ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS. USNATO DEMURRED AND WITH ASSISTANCE OF D. COOKE AGREED TO EXAMINE JAS LOCAL NATIONAL PERSONNEL NEEDS WITH A VIEW TO POSSIBLE DOD FUND SUPPORT FOR DOD FAIR SHARE OF NEW SPACES REQUIRED TO CONTINUE NATO RELATED HOUSING PROGRAM. IT WAS THEN ASSUMED THAT STATE WOULD PROVIDE REQUIRED LOCAL NATIONAL SPACES IF DOD FUNDS WOULD SUPPORT. IN MARCH 1977, JAS IMPOSED, WITH STATE AUTHORITY, A SECOND MAJOR CONDITION FOR CONTINUED SUPPORT. THIS CONDITION REQUIRED AN OCCUPANCY DEPOSIT TO COVER ANY UNPAID OFFICIAL BILLS (I.E. INDEBTEDNESS TO US GOVT) AND DAMAGE TO GOVT LEASED APTS OR TO BELGIAN OWNED PROPERTY IN BUILDINGS HAVING JOINT TENANCY. USNATO AND USDELMEC WERE IN CONCERT THAT DEPOSIT REQUIREMENT WOULD NOT NECESSARILY COVER PROPERTY DAMAGE NOR DEBT SATISFACTION PER SE AND WAS, ADDITIONALLY, A DISTINCT FINANCIAL BURDEN FOR LOWER GRADE GS AND NCO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PERSONNEL. USNATO AND USDELMEC WERE THE ONLY AGENCIES WHICH OBJECTED TO OCCUPANCY DEPOSIT PROGRAM WHICH EQUITATED TO TWO WEEKS RENT/UTILITIES. AN AGREEABLE ALTERNATIVE TO JAS, WHICH HAS BEEN DISCUSSED TELEPHONICALLY WITH B&F OSD COMPTROLLER (A), WAS PROVISION OF DOD FUND CITE, ADMINISTERED BY COMPTROLLER NSSG SHAPE, BUT AVAILABLE TO JAS FOR PAYMENT OF DEBTS AGAINST US GOVT RESULTING FROM NONPAYMENT BY DOD PERSONNEL. THUS, SECOND MAJOR CONDITION APPEARED FEASIBLE BETWEEN JAS AND DOD ELEMENTS.

2. AFTER MONTHS OF CONSULTATION AND PREPARATION, ON 8 JUNE, JAS SUBMITTED A MEMORANDUM TO USNATO AND USDELMEC SPECIFYING THAT 20 LOCAL NATIONAL SPACES WOULD BE REQUIRED TO COVER DOD SHARE OF HOUSING SUPPORT. THIS FIGURE INCLUDES 10 UTILITY AND MAINTENANCE WORKMEN, 6 INVENTORY/LEASE/REPORTS/TELEPHONE STAFF SPECIALISTS, 3 WAREHOUSEMEN AND A WORK ORDER PROCESSING SECRETARY. THE TOTAL COST OF THESE 20 LOCAL NATIONAL SPACES IS CALCULATED AT \$205,000 FOR FY 1978.

3. ADDITIONAL FACTORS: USNATO AND USDELMEC CONCURRED IN

THE 8 JUNE MEMORANDUM (FORWARDED TO OSD COMPTROLLER (A)
BY SEPARATE COVER) FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

A. ALTHOUGH NOT IN A POSITION TO VERIFY THE REQUIRED
LOCAL NATIONAL SPACE REQUIREMENT, THE DOD COST DOES NOT
APPEAR TO BE UNREASONABLE WHEN FACED WITH THE ALTERNATIVES
OF DUPLICATING THE SUPPORT THROUGH OSD/SERVICE CHANNELS
OR ABANDONING THE DOD NON-REP HOUSING PROGRAM ALTOGETHER.

B. THERE ARE CURRENTLY SOME 40 USDEL AND 14 USNATO

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PERSONNEL IN GOVT LEASED APARTMENTS WHO WOULD BE AFFECTED
BY ANY TERMINATION OF THE HOUSING PROGRAM. (FYI: JAS
SUPPORTS SOME 100 OTHER GOVT OWNED/LEASED UNITS FOR
AGENCIES OTHER THAN DEFENSE.)

C. DUPLICATION OF HOUSING PROGRAM BY DOD AGENCY WOULD
NOT BE COST EFFECTIVE TO EITHER DEPARTMENT OR TO THE
CONGRESS, AND SUCH A PROGRAM OPERATED BY A UNIFORMED
SERVICE EXECUTIVE AGENCY MIGHT BE VIEWED AS A VISIBLE
US MILITARY INCREASE IN BRUSSELS BY BELGIAN AUTHORITIES.

D. ESTABLISHMENT OF A DOD NON-REP PROGRAM WOULD
EXACERBATE THE PERCEIVED DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MISSION AND
DELEGATION PERSONNEL AND ALL OTHER LIKE GRADED DOD
PERSONNEL IN BRUSSELS NOT COVERED BY THE HOUSING PROGRAM
UNLESS A MAJOR EXPANSION OF DOD SUPPORT TO SUCH
CORRECTLY EXCLUDED PERSONNEL WERE ANTICIPATED.

E. LOSS OF A HOUSING PROGRAM FOR MISSION/DELEGATION
PERSONNEL WOULD CAUSE DISTINCT MORALE PROBLEMS VIS-A-VIS
COUNTERPART STATE AND OTHER CIVILIAN AGENCY EMPLOYEES
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AND WOULD ADVERSELY IMPACT ON MISSION/DELEGATION
HARMONY AND INTEGRATION.

4. ASSUMING AVAILABILITY OF DOD FUNDING, THE ENTIRE
PROBLEM SEEMED TO BE AT THE POINT OF A RESOLUTION, WHEN
ON 7 JULY JAS WAS ADVISED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE OF
A 64 LOCAL NATIONAL (FSL) POSITION CUT IN EUROPE,
FOCUSING INITIALLY ON UNENCUMBERED POSITIONS. JAS VIEWS
THIS REDUCTION (ONLY A PORTION OF A TOTAL 210 SPACE
CUT) AS PREJUDICIAL AGAINST CHANCES FOR ACQUISITION OF
20 ADDITIONAL LN SPACES REGARDLESS OF DOD WILLINGNESS
TO PAY THE \$205,000 REQUESTED, AND SUGGESTS DOD PREPARE
FOR PROBABLE SUPPORT PHASE OUT EFFECTIVE 30 SEPT 1977.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WE UNDERSTAND THAT JAS CANNOT
CONTINUE THE PRESENT NATO RELATED HOUSING PROGRAM WITH
ITS MEAGER STAFF. IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE, WE BELIEVE
IT IMPORTANT THAT DEFENSE EVALUATE SITUATION, IN
CONCERT WITH STATE, TO DETERMINE WHETHER PROGRAM
IN BEING WILL SURVIVE BY INCREASING JAS PERSONNEL AND
FINANCIAL RESOURCES OR WHETHER ALTERNATIVES SHOULD BE
SOUGHT BY DOD. REQUEST GUIDANCE. PEREZ

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